

Resolution No.: 18-967
Introduced: October 31, 2017
Adopted: November 14, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead sponsor: Joint Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Mental Health Court
\$190,516 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. Montgomery County is committed to a system of programs that work to avoid unnecessary incarceration and address the needs of people with mental illness that come into contact with the criminal justice system. In January 2016, the Montgomery County Mental Health Court Planning and Implementation Task Force issued recommendation for the establishment of Mental Health Courts in both the Circuit Court and District Court. County funding was first approved in August 2016 for implementation of the Mental Health Courts. The State of Maryland also providing funding for implementation of the District Court Mental Health Court.
3. The District Court and Circuit Court Mental Health Court began accepting cases in December 2016. Current funding allows the combined Courts to serve about 50 clients. At its September 14, 2017 session, the joint Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committee was informed that the Courts were already operating at capacity and additional funding is needed to reach the goal of serving about 100 clients.

4. In response to a joint Committee request, on October 17, 2017, the County Executive sent a memorandum agreeing with the goals of the Mental Health Court program but recommending that funding for expansion of the Court be consider in the context of the FY 2019 budget.
5. The joint Committee recommends no delay in expansion of the Mental Health Courts as it addresses the underlying causes of criminal behavior, reduces unnecessary incarceration, and is expected to reduce costs as arrests and criminal justice process are reduced.
6. The estimated cost for expansion is \$190,516 for two Therapists and two Behavioral Health Technicians in the Department of Health and Human Services.

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>
Department of Health and Human Services	\$171,618	\$ 18,898
Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves		

7. The joint Committee recommends approval of a Special Appropriation of \$190,516 to the Department of Health and Human Services for this purpose.
8. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

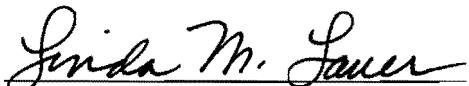
The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

A special appropriation to the FY18 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government in the amount of \$190,516 is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>
Department of Health and Human Services	\$171,618	\$18,898

The Source of Funds is General Fund Reserves. This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council